

Figure 2.14

Sugarloaf Geographic Area






15,187 NFS Acres 11,584 Non-NFS Acres 26,771 Total Acres

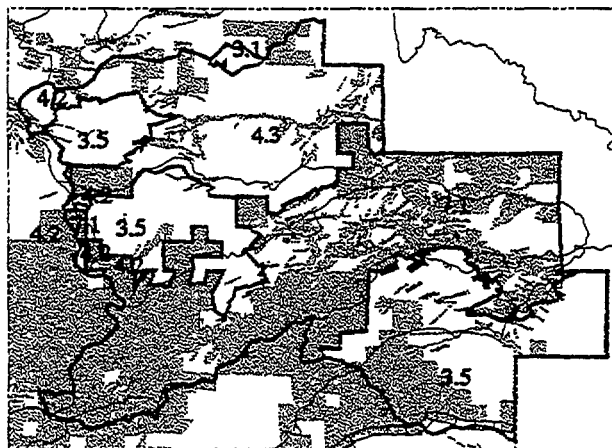
Management Area Prescription Allocation

- 3.1 - Special Interest Areas - Emphasizing Use or Interpretation
- 3.5 - Forested Flora or Fauna Habitats-Limited Management
- 4.2 - Scenery
- 4.3 - Dispersed Recreation
- 7.1 - Intermix

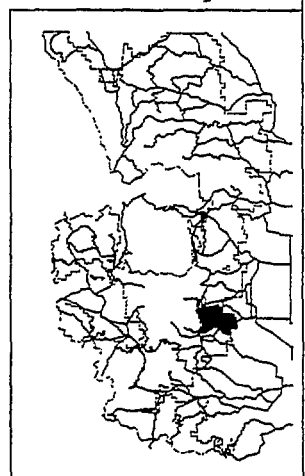
NFS Acres
159
6,833
306
4,790
3,099

Legend

-  Not NFS Lands
-  Roads
-  Trails
-  Utility Corridors (1.59 Mi.)
-  Electronic Sites



Locator Map



Scale 1:200,000
0 1 Miles



SUGARLOAF GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is located between the City of Boulder and the Town of Nederland. It contains a mix of lower and upper montane plant communities consisting of aspen, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, and meadows. Elevations range from 6,100 to 9,441 feet. Sugarloaf Mountain, Barker Reservoir, Boulder Canyon, the Black Tiger Fire, and Magnolia Townsite are the prominent geographic features. The Switzerland Trail, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, is also a key geographic feature.

Forty-three percent of the land in the area is privately owned, and landownership patterns are more fragmented than in any of the other geographic areas on the Boulder Ranger District. The majority of these private inholdings are either individual building sites with single family residences on them or parts of mountain subdivisions. There are also more year-round residents in this geographic area than in any of the others on the District.

The fragmented ownership is primarily the result of mining activity that occurred prior to the establishment of the National Forest in 1917. There are a wide variety of mining remnants on both public and private lands which include numerous mine shafts, adits, stopes, and test holes. The Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board is working to close hazardous mine openings throughout the geographic area.

A wide variety of human activities and uses may be contributing to an ongoing invasion of noxious weeds into the area. Major infestations of leafy spurge and toadflax are located near the Todd Gulch Quaking Fen and on Peewink Mountain.

The area's transportation network is extensive. Primary access is via Colorado Highways 119 and 72 and Boulder County's Sugarloaf and Magnolia Roads which are all major paved access routes. Portions of Highways 119 and 72 are part of the Peak-to-Peak Scenic Byway. An abundance of county and private roads provide passenger car access to the many subdivisions and private parcels as well as to the National Forests. Many 4WD roads and road networks exist (several of these are also county roads). The most well known 4WD networks are in the Peewink Mountain and Gordon and Pennsylvania Gulch portions of the area. There are no system trails.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Emphasis in the area is on a broad range of goals and desired conditions which include:

- protecting native flora and fauna

- enhancing forest health and reducing forest fuels and fire hazard through active vegetation management in cooperation with private landowners and state and county agencies
- adjusting landownership in Intermix areas in cooperation with private landowners and local jurisdictions

Restore, maintain or enhance aspen communities on an opportunity basis. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime. Emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention. The wildland fire management strategy throughout the geographic area is direct control.

Some restoration of natural processes through human-induced activities is anticipated, particularly in fire-dependent ecosystems. The kinds of treatments that could be considered include prescribed fire and mechanical treatments of vegetation through ponderosa pine thinnings and in some cases commercial timber sales. Specific goals for these treatments include improving wildlife habitats, restoring forest health, assisting in the recruitment of old-growth ponderosa pine, restoring or maintaining aspen, reducing fuel loading, and maintaining or restoring ecological integrity. In ponderosa pine communities, these activities will occur primarily on south-facing slopes. Timber harvest may be used to accomplish these goals and is probable on suitable and available lands (see the *timber suitability map*). Emphasis is also placed on controlling and managing noxious weed infestations near the Todd Gulch Quaking Fen and on Peewink Mountain.

Manage areas along the Peak-to-Peak Scenic Byway for heavy use that consists primarily of driving for pleasure and viewing scenery. Emphasize motorized recreational opportunities along other appropriate road networks in the geographic area. Pursue a right-of-way for the Garnett Spur Road. Minimize human-wildlife conflicts in winter and spring in the Gordon Gulch critical elk winter range by closing the area's road system to all motorized vehicles, including snowmobiles. Protect important riparian ecosystems in the Fourmile Creek Flora and Fauna area.

Manage for year-round recreational use. Minimize recreational impacts to riparian areas and other sensitive habitats by limiting camping to designated sites or closing areas to overnight use. Designated dispersed campsites may be implemented in the Gordon Gulch, Upper Fourmile Creek (that portion of the creek located in management area 4.2) and Rocky Point portions of the geographic area, while the area along County Road 68J may be closed to overnight camping.

Improve the quality of recreational experiences and expand recreational opportunities by considering the reconstruction of the Mt. Alto Picnic Ground. This could include modifying the site to make it suitable for day-use by large groups.

The travel management strategy for the area will be to encourage passenger car travel on the area's extensive network of state highways and county roads. Motorized travel will continue on

some of the existing 4WD routes. There may be significant road closures and obliterations to restore important meadows, wildlife winter ranges, and flora and fauna areas, particularly in the vicinity of Gordon Gulch and Fourmile Creek (see the travel management strategy chart). Most decisions on the specific roads and trails to keep or close will be made during travel management implementation.

Consolidate landownership patterns with emphasis in Intermix management areas (MA 7.1). Consider the disposal of isolated tracts of National Forest System lands in the Sugarloaf and Magnolia areas and acquisition of isolated, undeveloped mineral patents south and west of Mt. Alto Picnic Ground and in Upper Fourmile Creek.

Manage recreational uses and road and trail networks to reduce erosion or deterioration of riparian areas and watershed conditions. Evaluate road and trail impacts to aquatic and riparian ecosystems during travel management planning. Seek opportunities to improve instream habitat conditions in the Middle Boulder Creek and Fourmile Creek watersheds, which were rated Class III (non-functional) in the watershed condition assessment.

Management Area 3.1

Manage the Todd Gulch Quaking Fen as a Special Interest Area to protect the unique ecological values present on the site by:

- prohibiting the construction of new roads and trails
- minimizing recreational impacts by discouraging increased recreational use
- closing and obliterating the trail from the parking area to the Fen to minimize the spread of leafy spurge
- aggressively controlling and managing the leafy-spurge infestation spreading into the area from the northeast
- limiting fire management techniques to those which minimize ground disturbance. Heavy ground-disturbing equipment will not be used unless approved by the Forest Supervisor

Standards and Guidelines

1. (ST) Prohibit camping within 100 feet of lakeshores, streambanks and trails.

Travel Management Strategy, Sugarloaf Geographic Area

Management Areas	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
3.1	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	N
3.5	4WD	R	N	N	N	M
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	L
4.2	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	N
4.3	4WD	R	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	N
7.1	4WD	R	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	N

Figure 2.15

Thorodin Geographic Area

5,821 NFS Acres 5,396 Non-NFS Acres 11,217 Total Acres






Management Area Prescription Allocation

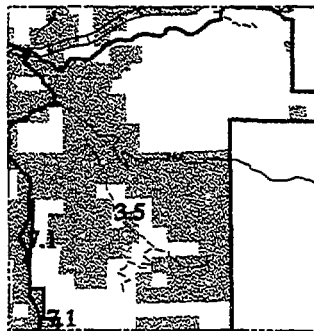
3.5 - Forested Flora or Fauna Habitats-Limited Management

NFS Acres

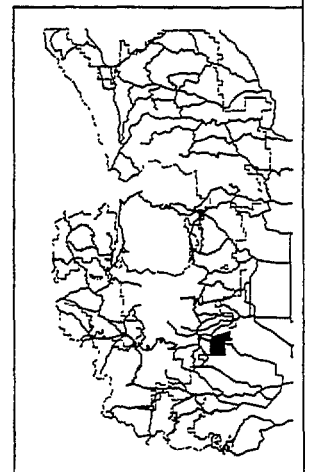
5,821

Legend

-  Not NFS Lands
-  Roads
-  Trails
-  Utility Corridors (0.12 Mi.)
-  Electronic Sites



Locator Map



Scale 1:200,000
0 1
Miles



THORODIN GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is located between the town of Pinecliffe and Mt. Thorodin. It contains a mix of lower and upper montane plant communities consisting of aspen, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, meadows and rock outcrops. Elevations range from 7,300 to 10,540 feet. Mt. Thorodin, Gross Reservoir, and the towns of Pinecliffe and Wonderview are the key geographic features.

The largest block of National Forest land in the geographic area is located west of Gross Reservoir along Winiger Ridge. In addition to being a critical elk winter range, Winiger Ridge is a small part of the area covered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's permit to the City of Denver for Gross Reservoir. Ownership in the remainder of the area is moderately fragmented by fairly large blocks of private land that are in many cases subdivided.

The area's extensive transportation network includes primary access via Colorado Highway 72 and a significant number of county and private roads that provide passenger car access to the many subdivisions and other private parcels. The Winiger Ridge Road network is the best known of the isolated 4WD routes. There is also a limited trail system.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Emphasize the maintenance and enhancement of flora and fauna throughout the area.

Restore, enhance, or maintain mountain grassland and aspen communities on an opportunity basis. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime. Emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention. Direct control is the wildland fire management strategy throughout the geographic area (see the *wildland fire management strategy map*).

Some restoration of natural processes through human-induced activities is anticipated, particularly in fire-dependent ecosystems. The kinds of treatments that could be considered include prescribed fire or mechanical treatments of vegetation through ponderosa pine thinnings and in some cases commercial timber sales. Specific goals for these treatments include improving wildlife habitats, restoring forest health, assisting in the recruitment of old-growth ponderosa pine, reducing fuel loading, and maintaining or restoring ecological integrity. In ponderosa pine communities, these activities will occur primarily on south-facing slopes. Timber harvest may be used to accomplish these goals and is probable on suitable and available lands (see the *timber suitability map*).

Maintain the area's recreational setting and provide for year-round recreational use. Minimize damage to riparian areas and other sensitive habitats by limiting camping to designated sites or

closing areas to overnight use. Designated dispersed campsites may be implemented in the Winiger Ridge area; the area along County Road 68J may be closed to overnight camping. Emphasize nonmotorized recreational opportunities near Mt. Thorodin. Provide primitive motorized recreational opportunities in the Winiger Ridge area during summer and fall. Close this area to motorized vehicles, including snowmobiles, in the winter and spring to minimize human-wildlife conflicts. Provide an area with minimal human-wildlife conflicts on a year round basis by limiting access to nonmotorized use only in the area between Winiger Gulch and South Boulder Creek.

Pursue rights-of-way for the Mt. Thorodin and Boiling Gulch Trails and the Mt. Thorodin Road.

The travel management strategy for the area will be to encourage passenger car travel on the extensive network of state highways and county roads. Motorized travel will continue on a seasonal basis on some of the 4WD routes. Most of the trails in the area will be retained. There may be significant road closures and obliterations to help restore important meadows and wildlife winter range, particularly in the vicinity of Winiger Ridge (see the travel management strategy chart). Most decisions on the specific roads and trails to keep or close will be made during travel management implementation.

Manage the Mt. Thorodin electronics site through the special-use permit issued to Western Site Management. Phase out other permit holders at the site.

Consolidate landownership patterns on an opportunity basis.

Manage recreational uses and road and trail networks to reduce erosion or deterioration of riparian areas and watershed conditions. Evaluate road and trail impacts to aquatic and riparian ecosystems during travel management planning.

Travel Management Strategy, Thorodin Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
3.5	4WD	R	N	N	N	H
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	Y	L	L

